## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 013689 ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CPR-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /032 R

DRAFTED BY TEXT RECEIVED FROM WHITE HOUSE APPROVED BY NEA:EGABINGTON S/S:APSHANKLE

-----200333Z 107063 /71

O 200313Z JAN 77 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PSDC, IS, US

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT FORD

- 1. PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING MESSAGE ASAP TO PRIME MINISTER RABIN FROM PRESIDENT FORD. SIGNED ORIGINAL BEING POUCHED.
- 2. BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. PRIME MINISTER:

AS I TAKE LEAVE OF THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, I WANT TO EXPRESS TO YOU MY APPRECIATION FOR THE CLOSE COOPERATION WHICH HAS PREVAILED BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS AND BETWEEN US PERSONALLY IN PURSUIT OF OUR SHARED OBJECTIVES OVER THESE PAST THIRTY MONTHS.

FOREMOST AMONG THESE HAVE BEEN THE ENHANCEMENT OF EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT A FINAL PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE MAINTENANCE AND STRENGTHENING OF ISRAEL'S SECURITY. I TAKE PRIDE IN THE FACT THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STATES AND ISRAEL ARE CLOSER TODAY THAN EVER BEFORE AND THAT ISRAEL'S SECURITY HAS NEVER BEEN SO WELL ASSURED. CERTAINLY OUR LONG PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP HAS BEEN A SOURCE OF SATISFACTION TO ME AS WE WORKED TOGETHER OVER THESE MANY MONTHS IN THE SEARCH FOR A PERMANENT PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND LASTING SECURITY FOR ISRAEL. I BELIEVE THAT BOTH OUR GOVERNMENTS CAN TAKE SATISFACTION

IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE SINAI II ACCORD AS A TURNING POINT IN ADVANCING THE CAUSE OF PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THE CHANCES TODAY ARE BETTER THAN EVER THAT GREATER PROGRESS CAN BE MADE TOWARDS OUR SHARED GOAL OF A PERMANENT PEACE IN THE AREA. GIVEN THE SPECIAL NATURE OF THE TIES BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE UNITED STATES, I AM CONFIDENT THAT OUR TWO NATIONS WILL CONTINUE TO COOPERATE AND FIND SUCCESS IN JOINT EFFORTS TO MAKE THIS GOAL A REALITY. ALTHOUGH TAKING LEAVE OF MY OFFICE, YOU CAN BE SURE THAT MY INTEREST IN ISRAEL, ITS SECURITY AND WELLBEING AND IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A PERMANENT FRAMEWORK OF PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST WILL REMAIN UNDIMINISHED.

I HAVE JUST RECEIVED YOUR VERY GRACIOUS LETTER OF JANUARY 16. I AM DEEPLY TOUCHED BY THE SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED IN IT. THEY REINFORCE MY SATISFACTION IN LEAVING, CONFIDENT THAT THE WARM TIES BETWEEN US WILL ENDURE. I APPRECIATE AS WELL YOUR KIND INVITATION TO VISIT ISRAEL. BOTH BETTY AND I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO ACCEPT IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

IN CLOSING, MAY I SAY THAT I HOPE THAT YOU AND MRS. RABIN WILL ENJOY SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS IN ALL YOUR FUTURE ENDEAVORS. MRS. FORD AND I HAVE ENJOYED OUR MANY YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP WITH YOU AND WE JOIN TOGETHER IN SENDING WARM BEST WISHES FOR YOU ALWAYS.

SINCERELY, GERALD R. FORD

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END TEXT. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am

Channel Indicators: n/a

**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** Concepts: CEREMONIAL MESSAGES

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 20-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Decaption Note:

Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event:

Disposition Event:
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE013689
Document Source: Core

**Document Unique ID: 00** 

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A

Errors: N/A **Expiration:** 

Film Number: D770020-1071

Format: TEL From: STATE

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770132/aaaabbuy.tel

Line Count: 99 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 161e61d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 16-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 3545254 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT FORD

TAGS: PSDC, IS, US, (RABIN, YITZHAK), (FORD, GERALD R)

To: TEL AVIV

Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/161e61d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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